

REGARDING USE OF HERBAL PRODUCTS

DEAR EDITOR:

The recent case review by Joshi and Faubion is an outstanding overview of the use of herbal products as well as subsequent adverse effects, especially in regards to the precipitation of mania and psychosis.¹ In addition to Ginseng and St John's Wort possibly contributing to psychiatric presentations, both Ginkgo biloba and S-andrenosylmethionin (SAME) have been reported in psychiatric presentations.^{2,3} With the ever changing demographic patterns in the US, it is key to remember that approximately 13 percent of the elderly population has used an herbal product with only about one-half reporting the usage to their healthcare providers.⁴ In addition, as the US changes in racial and ethnic population, physicians need to inquire about herbal use. This is due to varying attitudes and beliefs about herbal use and disclosure to their physicians.⁵ Herbal products may elicit changes in mood, thinking, or behavior⁶ and as such as must be considered when establishing a differential diagnosis in mania or psychosis.

With regards,
Tim Berigan, DDS, MD
Vail, Arizona

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